

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 7 6 December 2007, 1400 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

Statewide precipitation for the previous water year (1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007) was below normal. Despite recent precipitation, exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine status and is operating with normal staff.

State of Emergency: Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a Statewide Emergency on 18 October 2007 and imposed a statewide ban on all open burning. The statewide ban on open burning was lifted by Governor Timothy M. Kaine on 15 November. The Statewide Emergency remains in effect to deal with potential or actual drought related issues. The Governor has directed State Agencies to provide assistance in dealing with potential or actual drought related issues.

Governor Kaine requested that the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture declare Virginia a statewide disaster area due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures in 2007. The Acting US Secretary of Agriculture designated 78 additional counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas on 18 October 2007 due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing.

Governor Kaine held a Press Conference on 30 October and urged localities to update water conservation and drought contingency ordinances and plans and begin preparations to implement those plans. The Governor also encouraged citizens and businesses to strictly follow all calls for water conservation issued by public waterworks or local governments. ***Governor Kaine sent a letter to all localities dated 29 November 2007 advising them that the most effective water restrictions are those developed at the local level and asked that localities review their drought water conservation and contingency plans associated with public waterworks and if there was no current drought plan, one should be developed. Governor Kaine also asked localities to review their local ordinances requiring mandatory non-essential water use restrictions during declared emergencies and assure that the ordinances are consistent with the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan and if the locality has not adopted such ordinances, they should consider the development and adoption of these.*** DEQ – [COV Drought Response Plan](#)

Executive Order: [Executive Order 57 \(2007\)](#)

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday, 6 Dec: Sunny; high temperatures will range mid 30's to low 40's; winds will be light and variable. Thursday night: Partly to mostly cloudy; low temperatures will range low 20's to mid 20's; winds will be light and variable. Friday, 7 Dec: Mostly cloudy; high temperatures will range

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*low 40's to upper 40's; 30% chance of precipitation (rain, freezing rain) in Southwest VA and a 20% chance of precipitation (rain showers) in Northern VA; winds will be south-southwest at 5-10 MPH. **Friday night:** Partly to mostly cloudy; low temperatures will range low 30's to upper 40's; 30 to 50% chance of precipitation (rain showers) in Southwest and West Central VA; winds will be south-southwest at 5-10 MPH.*

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Posting event related items to WebEOC under event titled “WebEOC, 2007-10 Drought and Burn Ban”; Participating as member of the Drought Monitoring Task Force; monitoring weather, river flow and precipitation reports; assessing the impact across the Commonwealth; ***request submitted to extend Exemptions and Waivers for transportation of emergency relief supplies***

State Warning Point: Normal operations

Local Liaison: VDEM Regional Coordinators are monitoring drought impacts to localities in their region. VDEM Region Four Coordinator in contact with Wise County and Town of Appalachia officials reference water supply issue and in contact with Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: Even though the Statewide Ban on Open Burning has been lifted, VA Department of Forestry advises that several localities have implemented their own ban on burning and residents should check with their locality prior to conducting any open burning. [Local Burn Ban Restrictions](#); [Burn Ban Map 5 Dec 07](#)

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health and Office of Drinking Water continue to monitor and stand by for consultation and coordination.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported that all Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#); [Crop Status Report](#)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reports that that precipitation in late October increased stream flows in the western part of the state so that all October trout stockings could occur. November stockings are in progress but streamflows continue to decrease. Lake levels are still low in many areas and boat launching may not be possible at some ramps.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering: The Virginia Department of Health has not reported any impacts to public water supplies that have compromised their ability to provide the needs of their customers; ***61 systems have initiated water conservation measures; 29 mandatory water conservation requirements and 32 voluntary water conservation requirements.***

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the Town of Appalachia an Emergency Virginia Water Permit to withdraw 500,000 gallons per day from the Powell River and pump it to their reservoir. The permit is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid.

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There has been virtually no change in drought conditions across the Commonwealth during the past week. All precipitation outlooks indicate the potential for below normal precipitation through February 2008. Water levels in major reservoirs have remained stable primarily due to the initiation of lower releases. Stream flows have remained stable and are anticipated to do so through the first of the year. Based on seasonably low water usage and environmental demands it is likely that conditions will remain stable through the first of the year. Exceptional to extreme drought conditions persist in southwest Virginia.

Waterworks are encouraged to develop water conservation and contingency plans and local governments are encouraged to adopt local water conservation ordinances. [DEQ Water Conservation Tips](#): [US Drought Monitor - VA](#): [US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

DEQ chairs the Drought Monitoring Task Force and is conducting bi-weekly conference calls to monitor the drought impact and issues a monthly drought report. [DMTF Report November 2007](#)

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Preparing and distributing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Thursday, 13 December 2007.***

Mapping/GIS Unit: Providing maps and graphics related to drought and burn ban.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County declared a local emergency on 31 October due to drought conditions that have caused a severe raw water supply shortage to retail water customers in Wise County. The Mayor and Town Council of Appalachia along with Wise County declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. The Emergency Virginia Water Permit was issued by the VA Department of Environmental Quality and is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid. The town estimates they have a 40 day supply of water in the reservoir. Water conservation efforts have reduced the daily usage from an average of 400,000 gallons per day to 350,000 gallons per day.

The Town of Dungannon and Scott County declared a local emergency on 9 November due to a water infrastructure issue involving the Town of Dungannon water system. The town is having problems keeping their water storage tank filled and believes they have a major leak in the system which supplies approximately 700 people. Distribution of bottled water has been limited to those without water or who have special medical needs. The Baptist Relief Association mobile laundry/shower unit and the Department Of Corrections water tanker remain on standby at the First Baptist Church in Dungannon. ***Leak detection operations continue; prior repair of leaks have allowed the system to hold its own. The water tank currently holds 13.2 feet of water and has a capacity of 39 feet. The boil water notice remains in effect and water service is available to all customers at all elevations.***

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